

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Chair Stamsta called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Duane Stamsta (Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Bill Kramer, Hank Carlson, Andy Kallin, and Joe Griffin. **Absent:** Sandy Wolff

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, County Board Chair Jim Dwyer, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, Adolescent & Family Services Manager Pat Voss, Long Term Care Manager Jack Bodien, Child & Family Services Manager Jesus Mireles, and Deputy Health & Human Services Director Don Maurer.

Announcements

Dwyer thanked the members for accepting their assignment to this committee. He welcomed any comments, suggestions, etc. and said his door is always open. If you cannot attend a meeting or will be late, please contact Chair Stamsta or the County Board Office.

Esler commented on the County Code of Ordinances regarding the duties and responsibilities of this Committee, particularly as it relates to budget oversight, policy issues, and the impact of state and federal funding cuts.

Read Correspondence

Stamsta advised of the following correspondence: 1) Information on “The Power of Prevention: Steps to a Healthy Wisconsin” seminar May 18 & 19 in Stevens Point; 2) A Post-Crescent editorial entitled “Public health plan doesn’t get at money problem” dated April 14, 2004; and 3) Information on the Wisconsin Counties Human Service Association (WCHSA) Spring Conference entitled “Where Do We Go From Here” May 5-7 in Baraboo.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

May 13

Election of Vice Chair and Secretary

MOTION: Carlson moved, second by Kallin to elect Griffin as vice chair. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: Kramer moved, second by Jeskewitz to elect Kallin as secretary. Motion carried 6-0.

Introduction of Health & Human Services Staff and Brief Overview of Department Structure and Divisions

Maurer distributed Health & Human Services Department flow charts for both staff and programs. The department employs a total of 385.96 FTE (full-time equivalent) employees. Schuler said the 2004 departmental budget is about \$73 million and of that, about \$31 million (or 43%) is in the Long Term Care Division. The majority of that funding has come from Medicaid Waiver dollars or state GPR dollars in the form of COP (Community Options Program) dollars.

Health & Human Services funding is basically categorical, i.e., it’s applied to circumscribed populations like the elderly, physically disabled, physically abused, those with AODA issues, etc. COP funding is basically used to help people remain in their own homes and out of

institutionalized care. These are very expensive and can affect individuals such as the elderly and the physically and mentally disabled. Youth Aids funding is for youths, either adjudicated delinquent and / or they have committed status offenses. State block grant funding includes Community Aids and economic assistance services. These funds are flexible and cover a large array of services.

Schuler said each dollar is precious and it's important to intervene early and effectively and with the right amount of resources and control. They don't continue serving people any longer than needed and it's important they receive their treatment in the least restrictive setting. A primary goal is to keep people from going to the "deep end" of treatment which is always more expensive and can often have undesired side effects.

Kutz reviewed the Administrative Services Division which includes the Accounting Services, Office Services, Account Receivables, Account Payables, and Contract units. The 2004 division budget is \$3,808,286 or 5.2% of the total departmental budget and includes \$308,613 for the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council. The department's Information Systems employees are also part of this division.

Maurer explained the Intake and Support Services Division which is basically split into two areas: social services and economic support. The division's budget is \$6,575,724, of which, \$3,162,895 is for economic support. This division is the entry point for non-clinical services (which has their own intake area) and can include child abuse and neglect, elderly abuse and neglect, various disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. The Shared Services Unit includes daycare certification, volunteers in the transportation program, the Kinship Care Program (child with relative placements), the Home Management Program, and the After Hours Crisis Intervention Program. Economic support services for children and families are located at the Workforce Development Center while these services for the elderly and incapacitated individuals are located at the Human Services Center.

Mireles discussed the Child & Family Services Division whose 2004 budget totals \$7,006,122 or 9.7%. Child & Family Unit I works with children who have been abused or neglected and their families and the children remain at home. The Permanency Unit involves children who must be removed from the home and they work towards finding a permanent home, perhaps long term foster care, guardianship, and if no TPR (Termination of Parental Rights), they return to their parents. The Alternate Care Unit primarily works with children in group homes, treatment foster care, and residential treatment and again, they are working towards permanency. Most of these children are considered uncontrollable or delinquent. But they can also have developmental disabilities where they are in need of a higher level of service than what a foster home can provide. Child & Family Unit II, new in 2004, works with children who have been placed with relatives and are at imminent risk of out-of-home placement. Mireles said they also manage the Birth to Three Program, contracted with Lutheran Social Services, to provide services to children who have been identified as having a 25% or more delay in their development. Also new in 2004 is the Autism Program funded with State Medicaid waiver funding.

Voss explained the Adolescent & Family Services Division which has a 2004 budget of \$6,083,789 or 8.4%. The Family Services Unit provides court ordered services and supervision, primarily to teenagers and their families, usually for uncontrollable behavior including trancies and runaways. They also serve families where there are issues of family violence or when

parents request services or placement for their child outside of the home. The Juvenile Court Services Unit provides services mostly to teenagers who have been referred to law enforcement for criminal offenses. This unit works to strengthen the family with the primary goal of better parental supervision. The Correctional Liaison is part of this unit and provides services to juveniles who have been placed in correctional institutions. Also under this division is the Juvenile Center which includes both secure and non-secure placement of juveniles by the courts. Most of the placements are for delinquent behavior but some are children in need of protection due to abuse and / or neglect.

Bodien reviewed the Long Term Care Division whose 2004 budget is \$31,207,896 – \$1.8 million or 5.7% is county tax levy. Last year they served over 2,000 frail elderly individuals or those who had developmental disabilities. The types of services they provide are court related and include placement reviews for institutional settings (WATTS reviews), elder abuse investigations, comprehensive evaluations related to protective placements and guardianships, psychological services, and case management services. Over 90% of the services they provide are purchased and range from residential to vocational to day services, transportation and meals, respite care, etc. Their primary goal is to maintain people in their home community as long as possible and postpone or prevent institutionalization. Eligibility for services is based on diagnosis, functional ability, financial status, and need. They serve all age groups and it usually consists of long-term services. Waiting lists have been established for the majority of services and most services are driven by State Statutes.

The Clinical Services Division and the Public Health Division will be reviewed at a future meeting. Schuler distributed copies of the department's service directory for informational purposes.

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Griffin to adjourn at 3:23 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Kallin
Secretary